

Message Text

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11

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14

USIA-12 IO-12 OMB-01 RSR-01 /107 W
----- 010818

R 240743 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 662

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USINT CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 0403

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MCAP SO ET XF

SUBJ: SOMALI- ARAB RELATIONS

1. SUMMARY. RECENT HIGH LEVEL SOMALI VISITS TO CAIRO INDICATE SOMALIS CONTINUING THEIR EFFORTS MEND FENCES WITH ARABS IN GENERAL AND EGYPTIANS IN PARTICULAR. IMMEDIATE GOAL SEEMS TO BE ARAB SUPPORT FOR CHRONIC DISPUTE WITH ETHIOPIA, WHICH NOW HEATING UP, AS WELL AS HEADING OFF ANY MOVES AGAINST SOMALIA DURING ISLAMIC CONFERENCE. END SUMMARY.

2. BRIGADIER GENERAL SAMANTAR, VICE PRESIDENT AND MINISTER DEFENSE, VISITED CAIRO MARCH 15-22. QUESTIONABLE WHETHER SAMANTAR, CONSIDERED TO BE STRONGEST PRO- SOVIET ELEMENT IN GOVERNMENT, WAS BEST SUITED TO ALLAY ARAB SUSPICIONS OF SOMALIA OVER DEPENDENCE ON USSR. HOWEVER, VISIT FORTUITOUSLY COINCIDED WITH TIME MAGAZINE STORY ON ISRAELI ACTIVITY IN RED SEA, AND SAMANTAR MADE MOST OF IT TO CULL ARAB FAVOR AND EMBARRAS ETHIOPIA. EGYPTIAN GENERAL ISMAIL REPORTEDLY RECIPROCATED IN FULL MEASURE.

3. ACCORDING LOCAL SOURCE, TIME' S ALLEGATIONS, WHEN BROADCAST BY RADIO MOGADISCIO, PROVOKED CONSIDERABLE REACTION AMONG SOMALIS WHO REPORTEDLY SUSPECT ISRAELI/ ETHIOPIAN/ US " CONSPIRACY." CONFIDENTIAL

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ONE AIM OF " CONSPIRACY" ALLEGEDLY TO TURN DJIBOUTI INTO WESTERN MILITARY BASE UNDER ETHIOPIAN SOVEREIGNTY.

4. SOMALI FONSEC OMAR ARTEH ALSO VISITED CAIRO MARCH 22-23 EN ROUTE LIBYA FOR ISLAMIC CONFERENCE. IN ADDITION TO CARRYING MESSAGE FROM SIAD TO SADAT, ARTEH' S TALKS WITH EGYPTIANS REPORTEDLY COVERED CURRENT SOMALI- ETHIOPIAN BORDER TENSION. LOORAM

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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Disposition Authority: morefirh
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